Decreasing trend of research

†1439. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in number of research students recorded in the country during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to growing trend of professional courses in the country, student's interest towards research is decreasing and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is considering to formulate a separate policy to boost research education;

(d) whether Government is considering to enter into agreement with Foreign Universities in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Looking at the declining quality and quantum of scientific research in India, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was constituted by the Central Govt. for basic Scientific Research in universities. In its Report, the Task Force has *inter alia*, recommended creation of 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels, five fold increase in the number of Ph.Ds from Indian universities within a span of ten years with proper standards, promotion of formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including the CSIR laboratories through joint research projects and training, inbuilt component of research in post-graduate programmes pertaining to Science and Technology, upgradation of infrastructural facilities in universities to promote quality scientific research, and, creation of networking centers in Basic Sciences in leading Departments of Universities to promote collaborative research. The Task Force has been converted to an Empowered Committee to implement the recommendations. The University Grants Commission has been advised that while releasing grant-in-aid to the institutes of higher learning. 20% of the grant may be earmarked exclusively for research related activities. Universities are free to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with foreign universities for joint research collaborations.

Outlay for education sector

†1440. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the per cent of amount of Gross Domestic Product that is spent on reformation and development of higher education in India;

(b) whether there is a parity in the amount of money spent on this head in other countries of this world and in India;

(c) whether higher education in the country is totally dependent on Government assistance and because of paucity of funds, the adequate reforms and development are not being effected; and

(d) whether Government would consider to increase the percentage of expenditure on reforms and development of higher education?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.